

Comments on RM-10740
Submitted by Grant Youngman – NQ5T

It is unfortunate that the FCC has elected to consider the petition submitted on behalf of a small number of amateur operators, who find fault with what has been characterized as “Enhanced” Single Sideband. **I request that this petition be denied in its entirety.**

Consideration of this petition may well open the floodgates of additional petitions from amateur operators who find other modes, methods, or practices of operation unsuitable to their personal operating habits. For example, contests held on the amateur bands typically completely disrupt the ability of non-participants to use the amateur frequencies for other purposes. A few amateur contest operators use excessive power above the limits defined in the Rules. Many operators during contests transmit distorted signals from over-driven amplifiers which far exceed the bandwidth recommendations set forth by the petitioners in this case and clearly violate FCC Rules, Part 97.307(a). The amalgam of contest operations essentially closes many amateur bands to non-contest operations with a broad array of mechanically repetitive calling devices, wide and distorted signals, failure of operators to listen before transmitting on top of other communications in progress, failure to operate in accordance with anyone’s definition of “considerate practice”, etc.

A petitioner in this case, in a separate Op-Ed piece appearing in the August 2003 issue of QST magazine, refers to “enhanced” sideband as “inconsiderate as hell”. Any other mode or method of operation which interferes with my operating pleasure, such as contesting, is also, from time to time, to me and a large number of other contest non-participants, “inconsiderate as hell”. It is an activity in which I may choose to participate or not. But not an activity I would consider proposing limits on because I don’t choose to engage.

This petition is the result of a few disgruntled amateur operators unconcerned about any other aspect of the Amateur Service than their own narrowly defined niche of operations, attempting to control the operating practices of the service at large, based on personal objectives and intentional inflexibility in personal choice of operating frequency.

I believe the Rules do not need to and should not be amended to specify strict bandwidth limits. The Rules are plain, and the amateur community has a long history of successfully working within those Rules to the benefit of every participant of the Amateur Service, without specific and excessive regulation.

I do not operate “enhanced” single sideband, but I see no reason to impose unreasonably restrictive and extremely difficult to enforce limits for the entire Service, nor do I believe the individuals experimenting with quality SSB transmission should be unreasonably restricted. I have a VFO on each of my radios, and can move my unrelated operations to one of the many other clear areas of the amateur bands.

Thank you for your consideration

Grant Youngman
NQ5T
Licensed 1959